

### **August 26, 2008**

The fourth meeting of the Committee was held August 26, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 1228/1327 of the Legislative Building. The Committee first heard a progress report from Rep. Ronnie Sutton on the work of the Subcommittee on Rail Corridor Management. Next, the Committee heard from Roberto Canales, Deputy Secretary, NC DOT, on the Department's reorganization and realignment and its impact on rail. Following Mr. Canales, Pat Simmons, Director, NC DOT Rail Division, presented an update on NC DOT's progress on developing a new State Rail Plan. He introduced Allen Rutter, Cambridge Systematics; NC DOT Contractor to assist in developing the new Rail Plan, who gave an overview of the Department's progress on developing the new plan. The next speaker was Shirley Williams, NC DOT, who spoke on the criteria for State railroad investment and the role of public private partnerships.

### **November 18, 2008**

The fifth meeting of the Committee was held November 18, 2008 at 1:00 pm in Room 1027/1128 of the Legislative Building. The first speaker was Pat Simmons, Director, NC DOT Rail Division, who gave an update on recent federal rail-related legislation. Next, the Committee heard from Shirley Williams, NC DOT, who gave an update on the State Rail Plan. The Committee then heard from Scott Saylor, President of the NC Railroad, and Jim Kessler, a contractor of NCRR, who made a presentation about their recently completed commuter rail capacity study. The final agenda item was a report from the Subcommittee on Rail Corridor Management. Rep. Ronnie Sutton and Mary Dillon, Ellis & Winters, LLP presented the draft legislation developed by the Subcommittee.

### **December 11, 2008**

The sixth meeting of the Committee was held December 11, 2008 at 10:00 pm in Room 1228/1327 of the Legislative Building. The Committee first reviewed and revised its proposed recommendations. Next, the Committee continued its discussion and review of the draft rail corridor management legislation. The Committee also heard comments from William Caudle, a Harrisburg property owner, on the proposed legislation the Committee was considering. The Committee chairs endorsed Rep. Sutton's suggestion that a request should be made to the Speaker of the House to extend the Committee to January 28, 2009, to allow time to resolve remaining issues with the draft legislation.

### **January 14, 2009**

The seventh meeting of the Committee was held on Wednesday, January 14, 2009 at 1:00 pm in Room 1228/1327 of the legislative building. The Committee first heard from Bob Weiss, Committee staff, Fiscal Research Division, who went over the Committee's proposed findings and recommendations. Mr. Weiss then discussed two issues addressed at the January 7, 2009 meeting of the Board of Transportation: the State Rail Plan, and potential Rail